Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NSC-10 L-03 SCA-01

PPTE-00 SCSE-00 COME-00 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 DRC-01 /075 W $\,$

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1998

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2576

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC, CA

SUBJECT: END OF AMNESTY PERIOD FOR ALIENS ILLEGALLY IN CANADA

REF: OTTAWA 2345, SEPT. 28, 1973

- 1. MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION MINISTER ANDRAS ANNOUNCED THERE WERE NOT SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO WARRANT EXTENSION OF AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. SIXTY DAY GRACE PERIOD, PROVIDED BY PARLIAMENT FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO ENTERED CANADA BEFORE NOVEMBER 30, 1972, ENDED OCTOBER 15. JUST UNDER 50,000 PERSONS, INCLUDING DEPENDENTS, APPLIED FOR REGULARIZATION OF STATUS TO BECOME LANDED IMMIGRANTS UNDER AMNESTY PROVISION WITH VIRTUALLY NO REJECTIONS THUS FAR. IN ANNOUNCING THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENDING GRACE PERIOD, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN ALSO CITED 1.5 MILLION DOLLAR ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO GIVE INFORMATION WIDEST POSSIBLE DISSEMINATION.
- 2. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES STATED THAT THEY HAD NO PLANS TO ENGAGE IN CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO FERRET OUT STILL REMAINING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND THAT THEY HAD NO LISTS OF PERSONS TO BE ARRESTED AND DEPORTED UPON EXPIRATION OF GRACE PERIOD. UNCLASSIFIED

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3. COMMENT: AMONG MOTIVATIONS FOR SIXTY DAY AMNESTY PROGRAM WAS CANADIAN CONCERN OVER EXCESSIVELY LONG IMMIGRATION APPEAL BOARD (IAB) WAITING LIST UNDER PROCEDURE IN EFFECT THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 1973. ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND OTHER ORDERED DEPORTED HAD RECOURSE TO IAB UP TO THAT TIME TO LODGE APPEAL AGAINST DEPORTATION. DURING TWO-YEAR-PLUS WAITING PERIOD, CANADIAN AUTHORITIES, TO AVOID APPELLANT'S BECOMING DESTITUTE AND A PUBLIC CHARGE, FELT OBLIGED TO GIVE APPELLANT PROVISIONAL PERMISSION TO WORK PENDING OUTCOME OF APPEAL HEARING. THIS OF COURSE TENDED TO DEFEAT ENTIRE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM WITH RESPECT TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. WITH ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT APPREHENDED UNDER NEW RULES IN EFFECT SINCE OCTOBER 16 SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE DEPORTATION WITHOUT RIGHT OF APPEAL, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE BACKLOG AND ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS ARE NOW ON THE WAY TO SOLUTION. A BY-PRODUCT OF THE REGULARIZATION OF STATUS OF THIS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF HERETOFORE NONIMMIGRANTS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IS THE SUDDEN INCREASE OF CANADA'S POPULATION BY NEARLY 50,000. **SCHMIDT**

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